W. C. Stewart

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On Generation

Generation has been the subject of investiga=
=tion, to the most eminent Physiologists: Yet so mys=
=terious is it, that a few facts only have been established.
1st That the Ovaria are the seat of Conception. and 2dly
That Conception cannot take place, without the fecun=
=dating influence of the Semen Masculinum.
These being indisputably confirmed; it remains still to
be discovered how the Semen reaches the Ovaria.

I shall confine my remarks to the Generation of
the Human species, with a few references to other
animals.

That Theory, which supposes the Semen thrown by the
Penis into the Uterus, and conveyed thence by the Fal=
=lopian tubes to the Ovaria; has in my opinion, the
greatest portion of evidence on its side.
I shall first endeavor to show, that the Semen is
injected into the Uterus by the Penis, and carried to

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the Ovaria by the Fallopian tubes: and lastly make some observations, relative to the process of generation.

From a superficial view of the Genital organs of both sexes, we would suppose it impossible for the semen to enter the Uterus; much less reach the Ovaria. But by an attentive examination of the anatomy of those parts, "the Vagina is found more narrow at its beginning than it is further inward:" the action of its muscles confined almost entirely to its mouth, consequently, the grasp of the Vagina is most powerful on the root of the Penis, but the muscles of the latter being more numerous and situate there, greatly diminish if not wholly destroy the grasp of the former. Moreover in the act of coition the greatest pressure is on the upper part of the Penis, and very little on the lower through which the urethra passes. The liquor of the Prostate gland, which precedes the emission of the semen, seems evidently designed to destroy its tenacity, and thereby facilitate its passage.

* See Wistar's Anatomy Vol: 2d Page 195 and Page [illegible]

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The Rugæ on the inner surface of the Vagina are supposed to impede the progress of the semen, but they "do not extend beyond the external half of the canal: on the internal half part, or that nearest the Uterus, the surface is smooth.*" It is obvious from this arrangement that they are not intended for impediments, or they would have extended to the Os Uteri.

The Os Tincæ as seen in the dead subject: of an oval form, and not situate in the axis of the Va=gina is completely impervious to the Semen: though it is not probable that it retains the same shape and situation in the living subject during Copu=lation. Examples of other organs being equally in=capable of performing their functions, when not exci=ted are to be seen in the Penis, and Fallopian tube. The latter whose fimbriated extremity lies relaxed in the Pelvis, at the time of a fruitful coition becomes stiff and rises to receive the contents of the Vesicle. The Urethra of the Male whose canal is flaccid,

*See Wistar's Anatomy Vol: 2d: Page 196

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and oblique when the Penis is not in a state of erec=
=tion, renders the passage of the semen impracticable.
Nevertheless there are no facts in Physiology better
established, than that the ovum is conveyed by the
Fallopian tube to the Uterus, and that the semen
passes through the Urethra. May not a similar
cause, change the oval form of the Os Tincæ to a
circular, and adapt its orifice to that of the Penis?

The Menses appear intended not only to inform
the female, that she is of an age competent for the
procreation of her species, but to keep her in a fit
state for Conception: by dilating the neck of the
Uterus, softening the hard lips of the Os Tincæ,
destroying all obstructions that may be formed by
mucus, and rendering the Uterus and its appen=
=dages more susceptible to the stimulus of the
Male organs. In testimony of this, the assertions
of Accouchieurs that women conceive generally
soon after Menstruation, may be adduced.
Besides the stoppage of the Os Uteri by mucus, as

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In the canal of the neck of the Uterus, are ma=
=ny Striæ or wrinkles which might have prevent=
=ed the entrance of the semen into the cavity of
that Viscus, were not glands placed in the grooves
for the purpose of secreting mucus to fill up those
wrinkles, and lubricate the canal, which is kept
from accumulating in such quantity as to ob=
struct the passage, by the monthly discharge
from the uterus, during the unimpregnated state
of the female.

Having thus shown, that the entrance of the
semen into the Uterus is not impracticable; ~~and~~ of
its existence in that organ, we have the respectable
authorities of Hunter, Haller, and Morgagni.

Let us proceed to the consideration of its passage
to the Ovaria: and here the greatest difficulty pre=
=sents itself, the only medium of communication
between the Uterus, and Ovaria, being the Fal=

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=lopian tubes whose orifices next the Uterus, are not larger than a hog's bristle through which the semen cannot pass, as it is thrown into the Ute= =rus. But if we compare the diameters of the Fal= =lopian tube*, and Vas deferens†; admit the asser= =tion of Richerand, that "the human semen is never emitted in a state of purity, that is, such as is prepared by the Testicles;" and allow that the Fallopian tube is endowed with the func= =tion of an absorbent; (Nor will this two-fold ac= =tion be any objection, as the same may be seen in the duct of the gall bladder‡.) the difficulty vanishes.

For the propagation of the human species, and other animals also, the congress of the sexes is ne= =cessary; in the act of copulation, the irritation gradually increases: by this wise ordination the Os—

*See Wistar's Anatomy bol: 2 Page 199 and Page 175†

‡For this I am indebted to Dr. D. J. Davis who while demonstrating the viscera of the Abdomen to his Class suggested it.

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Tincæ is allowed time to change from the oval to the circular form, and to suit its orifice to that of the Penis; this sympathy is extended to the whole of the Uterus, Fallopian tubes, and Ovaria.

The glands in the neck of the Uterus, pour out their fluids to fill up the wrinkles, and facilitate the progress of the Semen.

At the moment of emission, the organs of the Male being in the highest degree of excitement, and the apertures of the Os Tincæ, and Urethra of the Male in apposition. The functions of the other parts of the systems of both Sexes, become diminished in their energies, whilst those of the Genitals are so greatly increased as to produce a universal Concussion.

The Semen having arrived in the Uterus, the Fallopian tube commences its operation as an absorbent, separates the genuine fluid of the Testes, from that of the Vesiculæ Seminales,

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and conveys it to the Ovaria. May not the fluid of the Vesiculæ Seminales, excite in the Uterus that action by which the Decidua is produced?

If the actual contact of the Male Semen, and Ovum of the female is not requisite, why do we see within the egg shell of the fowl, the Cicatricula, which is asserted by a Physiologist of great eminence, to be the product of the Male? or why are the Ova of the female frog unpro=lific, unless sprinkled with the Semen of the Male?

In what manner a Human Being is form=ed from the admixture of the fluids of the Male and Female, is known only to thee, O thou infinitely wise Creator.